

## Airport Airport Business Solutions Business "Valuation and Consulting Services to the Aviation Industry" 20075 1

"Valuation and Consulting Services to the Aviation Industry"
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February 12, 2003

Docket Management System U.S. Department of Transportation Room Plaza 401 400 Seventh St. SW Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: FAA Docket FAA-2003-14246 - 3 Airport Privatization Pilot Program
Notice of Receipt of ApplicationNew Orleans Lakefront Airport (NEW)
New Orleans, Louisiana

On January 16, 2003, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published in the Federal Register, Volume 68, Number 11, pages 2391-2392, "Notice of receipt of application of New Orleans Lakefront Airport, New Orleans LA; commencement of 60-day public review and comment period." Based upon the extent and detail of the following issues, the individuals that have signed this letter respectfully and formally request a minimum of a 60-day extension to the comment period specified in the above notice, as well as for a formal public hearing to be held in New Orleans.

- 1. The proposed Lease, Management, Operation, Commercial Enhancement, and Development Agreement is for a term of 50 years. It is our opinion that 60 days is not sufficient time to comprehend all the implications of such an extensive contract period.
- 2. The Orleans Levee District (OLD) Board has had over three years to review information and develop documents that the public now needs to review. These documents exceed 1,000 pages of text, and to be able to fully evaluate this volume and complexity of materials will take more than 60 days.
- 3. During the application process, the OLD was granted two extensions. We respectfully request an equal opportunity for review and analysis.
- 4. The "Private Operator" selected by OLD has made multiple statements regarding their experience. If this company is to manage the Airport for the next 50 years, we would respectfully request time to verify all of their reported experience.
- 5. All the docket materials were not available on the initial publish date in the Federal Register.
- 6. This Airport is critical to Metropolitan New Orleans and is utilized by multiple Fortune 500 companies. As such, the community cannot afford to rush into a 50-year decision with only 60 days to research available information regarding the proposed management company and proposed management and development activities.

7. Several areas of the application discuss air carrier related fees and activities; however, this application is stated as a general aviation application for the Pilot program. Obviously, this would have a significant impact on future activities and development at the Airport, and would require time to clarify fully to the satisfaction of all impacted entities.

We are certain that the FAA wants to fully and clearly be informed before proceeding with this application. To date, the FAA has basically heard only from representatives of the contract management company and the OLD. As such, we respectfully request that you allow us the time necessary to fully review and consider all materials and projections, and to comprehensively present our informed opinion.

If you have any questions regarding our request please contact Michael A. Hodges, President/CEO, Airport Business Solutions at (678) 461-4300, or Bobbi Thompson, Executive Vice President at (239) 573-9647.

Sincerely,

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